

MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, September 24, 2020
TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Maryland Department of Health

Due to COVID-19, this meeting will be held through WebEx-teleconference only.

To Join Webex Meeting:

<https://mdhealth.webex.com/mdhealth/j.php?MTID=mfcf246fa4658156f5eaf044d4e4f1c49>

Meeting password: ppMpffjp567

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Please note, if **only** calling in by phone, the host will be unable to unmute you and you will only be able to listen to the meeting.

Those who would like to make public comment should email Katherine Roulston at, Katherine.Roulston@maryland.gov or use the WebEx chat feature to submit comments/questions to the host.

AGENDA

- I. Departmental Report
- II. Family Planning Presumptive Eligibility
- III. Public Health Update - Flu Vaccines and other topics
- IV. Waiver, State Plan and Regulations Changes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Staff Contact: Ms. Katherine Roulston - (410) 767-5677
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**MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

July 23, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Jessica Dickerson
Ms. Shannon Hall
Ms. Vickie Walters
Ms. Linda Dietsch
Ms. Maansi Raswant
Rachel Dodge, M.D.
Winifred Booker, D.D.S
The Hon. Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Mr. Kenneth Garove
Ms. Marie McLendon
Mr. Ben Steffen
Ms. Anna Sierra
Mr. William Webb
Mr. Floyd Hartley
Mr. Vincent DeMarco

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Adeteju Ogunrinde, M.D
The Hon. Antonio Hayes
Ms. Robin Moore
Ms. Nicole McCann
The Hon. Matthew Morgan
Kathryn Fiddler, DNP
The Hon. Pat Young

Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee

July 23, 2020

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Vickie Walters, Chair, called to order the meeting of the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee (MMAC) at 1:05 p.m. Committee members approved the minutes from the June 25, 2020 meeting as written.

Departmental Report and COVID-19 Updates

Ms. Tricia Roddy, Director, Office of Innovation, Research and Development, provided the Committee with a combined Departmental report and COVID-19 update.

There is a lot of concern about whether or not the federal Health and Human Services (HHS) is going to be extending the public health emergency. The federal public health emergency is scheduled to end July 25, 2020. The Department was informed during a call with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that HHS does intend to extend the federal public health emergency. No written formal announcement has been released yet. The extension will be for another 90 days. This means nothing will change regarding the Department's policies around telehealth. We will have to revisit these policies in 90 days to see if anything sunsets.

The Department has started to re-engage our behavioral health system of care discussions and workgroups. These workgroups and discussions were put on hold last March. One item we discussed with the groups is working on the cost-based rates for community behavior health providers. This was a requirement under the Health, Opportunity, and Personal Empowerment (HOPE) Act of 2020. We are beginning to write the Request for Proposal (RFP) to get a contractor to assist the Department. We will continue to give the system of care workgroup updates on that process and involve them when appropriate. We will also give periodic updates to this committee.

Secondly, we gave the System of Care Workgroup an overview of the survey results that the Behavioral Health Administration completed around telehealth during COVID-19. A similar presentation is being given today to the MMAC.

There was a Board of Public Works (BPW) meeting July 1, 2020. There were a few cuts that pertain to Medicaid; specifically, (1) there was a rate reduction for DC hospitals, and (2) a rate reduction for durable medical services and equipment. We have dropped the DMS/DME provider rates to 80% of Medicare. In addition, we delayed the implementation of post-partum dental services for pregnant women until January 1, 2021, pushed back from July 1 2020. The BPW did not cut the FY 21 provider rate increase of 4 percent for behavioral health and long term care providers. Additionally, our payment to physicians for evaluation and management codes is remaining at 93% of Medicare.

The Medicaid program is still implementing new programs; such as, our team is working on implementing presumptive eligibility for the family planning program. We are slated to have that implemented sometime in late fall. We will give the Committee a presentation on those activities at a future meeting.

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Special Enrollment Period Update

Ms. Heather Forsyth, Director Consumer Assistance, Eligibility Policy and Business Integration, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) gave the Committee an update on the COVID-19 special enrollment period (SEP) and information on the Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Program (MEEHP) or tax time SEP (see attached presentation).

Behavioral Health Telehealth Provider Survey

Ms. Mary Viggiani, Assistant Director, Service Access and Practice Innovation, Behavioral Health Administration, gave the Committee an overview of the highlights of the Behavioral Health Telehealth Provider Survey Final report can be found here:

<https://bha.health.maryland.gov/Documents/COVID%20Survey%20Report%20FINAL%206.25.20.pdf>

Promoting COVID-19 Testing Among Medicaid Enrollees

Ms. Linda Dietsch , Maryland Physician's Care and Arethusa Stevens Kirk, M.D., Medical Director, United HealthCare gave the Committee an overview of how the managed care organizations (MCOs) are promoting and encouraging COVID-19 testing amongst the Medicaid population. The MCOs initiated a text message campaign early on and have been implementing various other initiatives.

Waiver, State Plan and Regulation Changes

Ms. Molly Marra, Director, Medicaid Provider Services, gave the Committee a status update on waivers, regulations and state plan amendment changes.

Regulations – There were regulation changes.

State Plan Amendments (SPAs) – Two new SPAs were submitted, 1) Home Health – changes made to maintain what we have in place during the state of emergency to allow nurse practitioners to be able to order home health services and 2) Nursing facility pay for performance. This was a proposal that addresses the 2019 Joint Chairman's Report request for the Department to make modifications to the pay for performance program. Both are awaiting CMS approval.

Waivers – There were no waiver updates.

Public Comments

Ms. Deborah Steinberg, health policy attorney, Legal Action Center, gave comments on the delivery of telehealth mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

Ms. Kim Wireman, Maryland Addictions Director’s Council, gave comments regarding telehealth for behavioral health care.

Ms. Lauren Grimes, Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland, also gave comments on telehealth services for behavioral health.

Adjournment

Ms. Walters adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.